

ALA Councilor
Report to the Board
November 21, 2009

With ALA being between conferences, there is little to report from Council. The ALA Council list has been focused on bills seeking to reauthorize and/or reform the sun-setting provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act

With the assistance of KLA's Chair of Library Awareness, Linda Kompanik, I am presenting for adoption by the KLA Board a Resolution on the 2009 Reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act and a coalition letter to be sent to Kentucky's Senators and Representatives. Both documents are attached to this report.

Three PATRIOT Act provisions are set to expire on December 31, 2009. This is the best chance we have had in the last eight years to get significant reforms to Section 215, often called the "library provision," and to national security letters (NSLs).

The USA PATRIOT Amendments Act of 2009 (H.R. 3845) protects constitutional speech and privacy rights by:

- Amending the NSL statute to ensure that the government only obtains financial, communication and credit records of people believed to be terrorists or spies;
- Requiring the government to convince a court that a national security gag order is necessary; and
- Ensuring that Section 215 does not authorize collection of library and bookstore records if they contain individualized information on the patron.

I will be attending Midwinter in Boston, January 15-19, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Tassie

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ALA Councilor 2007-2010